



# HSL-44 Swamp Fox Newsletter

Issue #1



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## CO's Comments

Friends and Family of HSL-44, I hope that all of you had an enjoyable holiday period and are off to a great start in 2008. This upcoming year proves to be an exciting and busy time in the squadron, and I'm very proud to lead such a talented group of maintainers, aircrewmembers, support personnel, and officers. One of my biggest goals for 2008 is to increase the communication flow between the squadron and the friends and families at home. In the months ahead, you should receive periodic newsletters and emails from the command letting you know what we're doing, and what events we have scheduled ahead. I encourage you to give us feedback on how we're doing - let us know what you would like to see from the command. Family picnics, more information on the website, more awareness of upcoming schedules and deployments??...we can make all of those happen. Additionally, our command website is an excellent initial source of information about the command. I invite you to take a moment to check out the website if you haven't already at <http://www.hsl44.navy.mil>.

In closing, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for the support and devotion that you provide to the men and women of HSL-44. Your contributions on the homefront are just as important as their contributions on the front line...and I sincerely appreciate all that you do!!

CDR Mike Patterson  
"Swamp Fox One"

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## XO's Comments

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008! The Swamp Foxes continue to excel after a great year in 2007. We hit the ground running in 2008 with our dets 2,3, and 8 in the midst of standing up and workups and det 5 heading back to the Caribbean after their ship's maintenance availability over Christmas. I am proud of every single member of our Swamp Fox family and our many accomplishments.

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## CMC Comments

Swamp Fox Family and Friends,

As we close out a very successful 2007, we should take pride in what we accomplished and look to make the future even better. One area I think affects us all is "Money". There never seems enough. If you're like me you have to deal with all those post holiday bills and what to do about tax. "How do I get ahead?" Ask yourself these questions.

- Do I pay off my credit cards every month?
- How much money do I need to retire?
- How much money do I save?
- Where does all the money go?

Do your bills keep growing?  
Interested in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds?  
How about controlling your debt?  
Do you have a financial plan?

If you're not satisfied with your answers, where can you go? You can meet with one of our Command Financial Specialists, the NMCRS and/or Fleet and Family Support Center.

Another great source of information is through the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) web site. NKO is the Navy's portal to information and knowledge. NKO Accounts are available to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard: Active, Reserve, Retired, and their Dependents. Below is a list of available e-learning training.

I hope you find this information useful.

**FS0406\_ENG/Identity Theft**  
**CNET9724/Leave and Earnings Statement**  
**CNET9732/Official Government Travel**  
**CNET9723/Military Pay and Entitlements**  
**CNET9731/Investments/Savings/TSP/REDUX**  
**CNET9733/Financial Planning for Deployment**  
**CNET9722/Financial Ethics**  
**CNET9725/Developing a Spending Plan**  
**CNET9727/Credit Buying**  
**CNET9728/Consumer Awareness**  
**CNET9729/Car Buying**  
**CNET9726/Banking/Financial/Checkbook Management**  
**CNET9730/Meeting Your Insurance Needs**  
**CNET12001/Retirement and Estate Planning**  
**CNET12417/Investment Instruments**  
**CNET12420/Real Estate Transactions**  
**CNET12414/Reviewing the Financial Plan**  
**CNET12423/Transition Planning**

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### **Safety**

On the Safety Front, HSL-44 has been nominated for the prestigious 2007 Grampaw Pettibone Award, an award reserved for aviation commands that maintain only the highest standards of safety. In keeping with this past success, the Swamp Foxes gathered for a Safety Stand Down on the 15th of February in preparation for the Spring and Summer months ahead. Remember, it is during these months that the frequency of off-duty recreational injuries reach their peak.

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### **Det 8**

The Ocho (HSL 44 DET 8) has successfully completed four months of training and will conduct it's first underway period with the USS McInerney (FFG-8). While underway on Week One Work Ups, DET 8 will complete advanced training with the USS McInerney

and a U.S. Coast Guard LEDET (Law Enforcement Detachment) in preparation for their future deployment in support of Counter Narco Terrorism Operations.

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### Det 2

Det 2 has started our work-up cycle and has a very busy schedule ahead of us. While our maintenance team led by AEC Vick and AM1 Gaunchez are working hard preparing Magnum 441 and 443 for our upcoming underway time, the pilots and aircrew have been busy with academic training as part of the Helicopter Advanced Readiness Program (HARP). February was a hectic month with our first underway period with our ship, USS MONTEREY (a Norfolk, VA based cruiser) as well as getting a chance to gain weapons qualifications during a two week period at the AUTEC range in the Bahamas. For our family members, the next few months (March through May) will be very busy for the det with a lot of time away from home. Please talk with your spouse about preparing for this time and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. - LCDR Grahame Dicks, Officer-in-Charge, HSL-44 Det 2 (grahame.dicks@navy.mil)

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### Det 3

HSL-44 brought 2007 to a close with the formation of Detachment 3. HSL-44 Detachment 3 was formed in November 2007 under the leadership of Lieutenant Commander Lonnie Appleget. Detachment 3 will consist of 3 Aircraft Commanders, 4 Helicopter Second Pilots, and 19 Maintainers. The detachment will be attached to the USS MASON (DDG 87), home ported in Norfolk, VA; ultimately they will be an integral part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group. Detachment 3 is off to a busy 2008 starting with the completion of Helicopter Advanced Readiness Program (HARP) leading up to their long deployment in Fall 2008. Their rigorous schedule has them busy from February through May with training at the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) and numerous underway periods training with the USS MASON.

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### Det 5

The Det 5 "Haters" under the direction of LCDR Scott "Moose" Penland have completed the first half of their Counter Narco Terrorism deployment in the Caribbean. After an extended port visit to Mayport, the Haters are back at sea searching for bad guys smuggling illegal drugs to US shores.

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### Administration

With the deployment of our "Combat Warrant", Warrant Officer Milton Key, to Afghanistan, LCDR Matt "Smoke" Boren has taken the reigns in Admin. The Admin team made it through the rigorous end of the year awards season with flying colors!

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### Maintenance

Overall, it was a very successful month of January. It was nice to have everyone home for the holiday season. However, with everyone being home, much maintenance was required over the stand down period. In the month of January, the maintenance team

accomplished 6 phases, 12 major calendar inspections, and executed a two line CATM-EX flight schedule the first week after the holiday stand down. This hard work has set us up for success as our dets getting ready to deploy. February provided additional challenging commitments. In addition to WOWUs, Dets 2 and 3 traveled to AUTECH to conduct anti-submarine and anti-ship training. Det 5 got back underway to continue their successful deployment in the Caribbean and western Pacific conducting Anti-drug operations. Det 6 has formed up to begin preparations for WOWU followed by Neptune Warrior in March. Det 8 will wrap up their work-up cycle as they make preparations to follow Det 5 in the fight against the drug lords. I look forward to another successful month. Remember, SAFETY FIRST.

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### **Material Control**

Swamp fox Supply started off the New Year by welcoming SK3 Walker, SK2 Jennings, and SK2 Stewart to the Material Control Division! We also celebrate the new additions to the Swamp fox family with the recent marriages of SKSN Davis, SK1 Balanza, and SK3 Delgado! We salute and congratulate SK2 Brandley on his selection as Naval Station Mayport Aviation Support Detachment's Junior Sailor of the Quarter and SKSN Davis on his selection as HSL-44 Swamp fox Blue Jacket of the Quarter!

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### **Operations**

Even with the Holiday season in full effect, the Operations Department has been busy getting Detachments trained and ready to go to sea. The week of the 14th was a very busy and productive week. Detachments TWO and THREE flew numerous missions to the Pine Castle Range to perform CATM exercises. The missions are necessary to practice for their eventual Hellfire missile shots that will take place at the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTECH) at Andros Island in the Bahamas. In addition to the CATM exercises preparing for Hellfire shots, perspective Helicopter Aircraft Commanders were busy at Pine Castle completing their ASU Level 3 check flights. Other aircrews were busy getting ready for upcoming at sea periods. Detachment FIVE was preparing to redeploy onboard USS STEPHEN W GROVES to South America to continue their Counter Narco-Terrorism deployment. Detachment EIGHT started integrating with their ship, USS MCINERNEY, by participating in the ship's AIR-1 certification and subsequent Week One Work-Up. Week One Work-Up is the first step that a Detachment takes in forging a working relationship with the ship they are scheduled to deploy with.

February was also busy month with Detachments TWO and THREE heading down to AUTECH and Detachment SIX doing their Week One Work-Up with USS ANZIO.

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### **Training**

January has proven to be a very intense yet productive month for all aircrew at HSL-44. Detachments Two and Three, led by LCDR Grahame Dicks and LCDR Lonnie Appleget, have completed the pre-deployment training known as the Helicopter Advanced Readiness Program (HARP). This is an intense set of classes instructing and preparing detachments for the dynamic mission variables these warriors are likely to see while deployed. Detachments Two and Three headed to AUTECH (Atlantic Undersea Test and

Evaluation Center, Andros Island, Bahamas) where their superior tactical skills were tested and refined through various sorties.

To ensure future success and readiness in all of HSL-44 detachments, the Training Department will continue to work diligently to ensure the best possible training is provided for this new year in 2008.

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